(b) if so, whether the same occurred before the guaranteed run;

(c) the number of hours run and total generation before the explosion;

(d) the i approximate replacement and repair cost and whether the same is being done free of cost by the foreign supplier;

(e) whether loss of generation during shut down period is being compensated by the supplier, if not the reasons therefor;

(f) whether an independent enguiry by Central Electricity Authority is being conducted, if not, the reasons therefor; and

(g) the likely date of recommissioning of the plant?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI N.K.P. SALVE): (a) A mechanical failure of cooling fan of the generator caused damage to the generator in the first 500 MW Unit in the Talcher Thermal Power Project of National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) on 4th October, 1995.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The Unit was synchronised on 19.2.1995 and had logged a total of 2845 running hours before the failure occurred and had generated 705.804 Million Units.

(d) on the basis of preliminary assessment of the damage the repair/ replacement work has been taken up by the supplier without any cost implication to NTPC.

(e) As per the provision of the contract, contractor is not responsible for loss of generation.

(0 Yes. Sir.

(g) The unit is expected to be recommissioned in March, 1996.

News item captioned "A Government Backed Scam for all Seasons"

*135. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN:
SHRI VIREN J. SHAH:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a report published in the Times of India (Business Times) Bombay edition of February 6, 1995 under the heading "A Government backed scam for all seasons";

(b) if so, what are the facts and details of various' issues raised in the above report;

(c) whether Government have made any enquiry into the various issues raised and allegations made in the above report; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government have so far taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (DR. DEBIPROSAD'PAL): (a) to (d) The news item captioned "A Government backed scam for All Seasons" in the Times of India dated 6th Feb., 1995 regarding All Seasons Foods Ltd., inter-alia, raised the following issues:—

(i) Waiver granted by the erstwhile controller of Capital Issues to the Rights issue by the Company in 1990-91;

(ii) Withdrawal by certain banks of the underwriting commitment given to the Issue; and

(iii) Other irregularities by the company such as non-payment of dividents, mis-statement in the prospectus regarding financial performance, failure to hold Annual General Meeting within the stipulated time, etc.

The right issue by all Season Foods Ltd., of fully convertible Debentures amounting to Rs. 10.37 crores opened on

October 30, 1990 and closed on 27th March, 1991 after obtaining Controller of Capital Issues's waiver to keep the issue open for a period exceeding 60 days. Although the CCI guidelines inforce at that time laid down that a Rights issue could be kept open for sixty days only, the extension in the present case was given taking into consideration the depressed investment climate prevailing at that time.

Eleven Banks including UCO Bank originally agreed to extend under-writing support to the Rights issue. After the issue developed the underwriters did not fulfil their commitment on grounds that the Company did not comply with the terms and conditions of underwriting commitment.

On the irregularities by the company, the Deptt, of Company Affairs conducted inspection in June, 1992 and based on the inspection, launched prosecution proceedings under various provisions of the Companies Act in July-Aug., 1992. However, by an order of Bombay high Court the Company was wound up on 11.11.92 and the liquidation proceedings are being conducted by the official liquidator, High Court of Bombay.

Outstanding Excise Duty Against soft Drink Manufacturers

*136. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state;

(a) whether Government have fixed the tariff value for aerated waters to simplify the assessment of Central Excise Duty;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) the details of Central Excise Duty outstanding against soft drink manufacturers in Delhi and Bombay; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to recover the dues?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M.V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The following tariff value for aerated waters have been fixed w.e.f. 1st November, 1995 to simplify the assessment of Central Excise Duty:—

	Description	Tariff Value
(i)	For each bottle containing more than 200 ml. but not exceeding 300 ml.	Rs. 2.70 per bottle
lvf		
(ii)	For each bottle containing more than 300 ml. but not exceeding 500 ml.	Rs. 3.75 per bottle
(iii)	For each bottle containing more than 500 ml. but not exceeding 1000 ml.	Rs. 7.50 per bottle

(c) The names of units manufacturing soft Irink in Delhi and Bombay and the amount of Central Excise Duty outstanding against each of them are as under: